

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 001763

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL SP EUN

SUBJECT: SPANISH RESPONSE TO MAY 17-18 EU FMS MEETING

DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 104199

Classified By: Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Political Counselor, for Reasons 1
.4 (b) and (d)

¶11. (C) We delivered reftel demarche on May 14 to Enrique Mora, Director of the MFA's Office of EU Foreign Policy and Common Security. Mora said that the new Spanish government would maintain Spain's previous policies on the issues being discussed at the next EU General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting. On ESDP issues, he said that the GOS would continue to support the idea that European defense policy should complement and reinforce NATO, and not become an alternative to NATO. Mora said he did not see anything in the Headline Goal for 2010 or the Battlegroups proposal that was inconsistent with NATO. He stated that the only proposal that may be of concern was the idea for a separate European tactical planning unit in Belgium.

Western Balkans

¶12. (C) Regarding Croatia, Mora said that he agreed that Croatia was not making sufficient progress on the issues of detaining Gotovina and providing for the return of refugees. He said that these issues would be taken up at the next EU meeting, in June. As far as continued negotiations on entry into the EU, Mora said that the EU does consider Croatia to be a functioning democracy and a functioning market economy, which are the two criteria necessary for discussions to proceed. Depending on the June discussion on how to handle Croatian shortcomings, Mora said he saw a high-probability that Croatia would be included in entry negotiations along with Romania and Bulgaria.

European Neighborhood Policy and Russia

¶13. (C) Regarding the EU's periphery, Mora said that the European Neighborhood Policy document would not be discussed at this next meeting, but that it would be on the June agenda. Spain's most notable request on this matter will be in requesting that Morocco and Algeria be included in the policy. Mora said that the EU continues to work on getting the Russians to live up to their troop withdrawal commitments in Georgia and Moldova, but that he saw the Russians holding out for financial reasons.

EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit

¶14. (C) Mora said he did not know of any new EU projects or funding that would be on the table at the next EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit. He added that he didn't believe that any progress could be made on EU-Mercosur negotiations until there was a commitment to restart the Doha Round discussions.

Cyprus and Turkey

¶15. (C) On Cyprus and Turkey, Mora said that the EU had acted on April 29 to begin ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community, and that the only discussions at next week's meetings would be some talks on how to certify the direct entry of Turkish Cypriot products into the EU. On Turkey, he said that Spain also looked favorably on the reforms passed by the Turkish parliament. He said that Spain and Italy (and to some degree, the United Kingdom) were supporting EU membership for Turkey, but that France and Germany had major reservations. Mora said he thought that Germany might be swayed at some point because of its commercial interests in Turkey, but with the issue of German citizenship for residents of Turkish descent still